



The Sandy Springs Cadet Squadron 40th Anniversary Edition Georgia Wing, U.S. Civil Air Patrol

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Brian H. Berry, Lt Col, CAP
Commander, SCS

I'm proud we're reviving another tradition of the Sandy Springs Cadet Squadron -- the publication of "The Sopwith Camel", our squadron newsletter. The "Camel", as it's been known, has been around on and off since the 1960s, and has been an important way of communicating with our troops. With the help of our editorial staff and inputs from YOU, the cadets, this tradition will continue.



Besides being the reintroduction of the newsletter, this edition is also special for the event we're celebrating this month; the 40th anniversary of our famed "Snoopy Patch". Yes, it was on July 25th, 1967 that Charles Schulz, the "Peanuts" cartoonist, wrote his approval for us to use Snoopy on our unit patch. Every since then, Snoopy has graced the pockets of our green "Pickle Suits", flight suits, jungle fatigues and BDUs.

We're celebrating the event with a "Snoopy Patch Birthday Party", but we're also using the opportunity to honor a true hero, WO1 Joseph E. Congleton, Jr. (US Army, Retired), our former cadet commander, and known as the creator of our Snoopy patch.

As far as we've been able to document, Joe was the SCS cadet commander during the 1967-1968 school year, and led the effort to design and get approval for a squadron patch. Under his direction, Cadet Harry Topliss wrote the letter to Charles Schulz, and commissioned production of the patch. We owe it to Joe for creating one of the most colorful and distinctive unit patches in all of CAP.

But what we really need to honor Joe Congleton for is what he did after he turned the reigns of cadet command over in 1968. Joe entered Georgia Tech, but reportedly got 'bored' with the academic life -- he wanted to do more. So, in the height of the Vietnam conflict, Joe quit college and volunteered to join the US Army to become a helicopter pilot.

After initial Warrant Officer Candidate school at Ft. Wolters, Texas in 1969, Joe probably finished his training at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, then checked out in the Army's newest, most awesome weapon, the AH-1G Cobra attack helicopter. It probably didn't take long before the hot, humid air of South Vietnam washed across Joe's face as he joined A Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry Division at Vinh Long.

One night, Joe's troop was deployed to support a Special Forces compound near the Cambodian border which was under attack. After landing, an intense firefight erupted and Joe was hit and seriously injured. He returned home severely disabled, and remains so today.

We all owe Joe thanks, for his leadership of Sandy Springs Cadet Squadron, for volunteering to serve his country in a time of great conflict, and especially for the sacrifice he made for his country. Let's celebrate this month's anniversary of our Snoopy patch, but let's also keep Joe and the thousands of other disabled veterans from every conflict in mind every time we wear it.

A WORD FROM OUR CADET COMMANDER

As the Cadet Commander of Sandy Springs I have many plans for the future. I am looking forward to the coming year with much ambition. My main objective is to be readily available to all of you to provide guidance and perhaps a few pearls of wisdom having been through the same issues you may be presently encountering. I also hope to serve as a liaison between you and the Officer Corps of Sandy Springs. I understand that difficulties may arise during your time as cadets, but remember, I, my Cadet Officers, and most of the Senior Members have "spilled the same blood in the same mud". I will always try to stay true to the "Type Z" style of leadership. Seeing that you all may not be up to date on your Leadership Lab 1 Manual, I will expound. I hope to be understanding of the potentials that each and every one of you has as an accomplished cadet in SCS, I will display your accomplishments and privately make known your mistakes. I will remember that mistakes are one of the most efficient learning and teaching tool. I will try to make time to explain one-on-one how to do it right the first time. On the other hand, we are all members of a squadron tasked with the very serious mission of search and rescue. These cases require immediate action,





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quick responses, and tasks accomplished with skill and professionalism. So it will be my primary objective to teach you how to accomplish these tasks the RIGHT way. It is important in time situations to be stern, to the point, and professional, so try to remember it is in your best interest and, more importantly, the best interest of our potential patients that we may be tasked to save. I will try to blend understanding with quickness and professionalism. My main focus is on you, the cadets, and on making all of you successful leaders for our country. My door is always open

C/1Lt Kyle Strait

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Summer 2007 saw to an increase in Sandy Springs Cadets achieving acceptance into the various National Cadet Special Activities (NCSA) available. In addition, numerous cadets took advantage of the encampment opportunities both within the state and reaching across to our neighboring state of Alabama. As early as March, six cadets were notified of the opportunity to attend a NCSA:

- C/LTC Heather Gallagher- International Air Cadet Exchange (Hong Kong); Para-rescue Orientation Course; Originally Appointed GAWG Encampment Commander
- C/1LT Brian Rasmussen- Colorado National Flight Academy- Glider
- C/2LT Kyle Strait- Oklahoma National Flight Academy- Powered
- C/2LT Amy Vegter- National Emergency Services Academy- First Responder
- C/SrAmn Ctarik Curry- Aerospace Education Academy
- C/Amn Hasmik Agasarkisian- Para-rescue Orientation Course

Next, there were the three encampments that Sandy Springs showed up in force at:

- GAWG Glider Encampment:
 - C/SSgt Richard McMurray
- AL-MS Wing Encampment:
 - C/SMSgt Beau Vegter
 - C/SSgt Richard McMurray
 - C/SrAmn George Cooksey
 - C/SrAmn Ctarik Curry
 - C/ SrAmn Anthony McMurray
 - C/Amn Gevork Agasarkisian
 - C/Amn Hasmik Agasarkisian
 - C/Amn Lousine Agasarkisian
 - C/Amn Siranoush Agasarkisian

Note: Although titled the AL-MS encampment only 8 MS cadets were present and 1 GA staff + 9SSCS= 10...maybe it should have been an AL-GA?

- GAWG Encampment:

- C/2LT Amy Vegter- Charlie Flight CC Commander
- C/TSgt Sakorey Srongprapa
- C/SSgt Colin Istvan
- C/SrAmn Ctarik Curry
- C/A1C Lousine Agasarkisian
- C/Amn Gevork Agasarkisian
- C/Amn Hasmik Agasarkisian
- C/Amn Siranoush Agasarkisian
- C/Amn James Wiley
- C/Amn Julian Lidback

*Captain Megan Gallagher
For the Commander*

WING CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES SNOOPY

Several members of Sandy Springs Cadet Squadron received honors at the April 21st Georgia Wing Conference, held at the Crowne Plaza, Marietta. Among the many awards, Cadet Lt. Col. Heather Gallagher received the Cadet of the Year Award, named in honor of Col. Ben Stone, a 60+ year veteran of CAP. Major Mike Reed was awarded Public Affairs Officer of the Year. Cadet 1Lt. Brian Rasmussen won the Goudy Flight Scholarship. Captain Megan Gallagher received an AOPA National Flight Scholarship, as well as a Commander's Commendation. Major Rebecca Gallagher and Captain Owen Snider received Commander's Commendations for their outstanding dedication to the cadet program.





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HOME OF THE GEORGIA WING COLOR GUARD

This year, Sandy Springs became the home of the Georgia Wing Color Guard, commanded by C/SMsgt. Beau Vegter. In May, the team traveled to Patrick AFB, Cocoa Beach, Florida, along with team coaches 1Lt. Terry Vegter and 2Lt. Terri Lynn Vegter to compete at the Southeast Region Competition. The color guard, consisting of flagbearer C/Tsgt. Richard McMurry, rifle bearers C/Ssgt. Sakorey Srongprapa and C/Tsgt. Joseph Lawler, performed admirably, placing third in the Southeast Region Cadet Competition. The team was supported by C/CMsgt. Amy Vegter, whom was injured while preparing for the competition and was replaced by cadet Srongprapa. The two teams, SSCS and GAWG, have combined forces to perform Color Guard duties as requested for the Braves, Falcons, and Hawk events.



The Georgia Wing 2007 Color Guard

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CADET

One may find it hard to forget their first experience with CAP; the first time falling in to flight, the first time standing at attention for, seemingly hours on end, the endless string of commands emanating from the drill instructor's vocal cords, even the humiliation of the first uniform inspection. With all of the work put into making my uniform perfect, memorizing all the general orders, studying for tests, all for just the three hour meeting once a week, sometimes I ask myself, is this really worth it? I say, oh yeah!

Every Thursday morning, I wake up and wonder why the week can't just pass by so that I can go to the Wednesday meeting again. The meetings provide a chance to be trained in life skills, make friends, learn how to save lives. It is the highlight of my life. I will be attending a Leadership boarding school in the fall,

and I don't know how I will cope for four months without CAP and the Sandy Springs Cadet Squadron.

Since I joined this organization, I have grown in so many ways. I have realized how immature I really was (still am a bit) and that I needed to renovate my life. I've made new friends and gotten rid of some "friends" who were immature, irresponsible, even dangerous at times. At school, when I was assigned a group project, people now turn to me to lead them, as if they were expecting that I knew how to organize them to get the job done effectively. I noticed that I get better grades, because I now know good time management skills. I am now told that I act more mature, that I can now handle responsibility.

As the one year mark nears, I look back on all the accomplishments I have made in the past year in CAP; conquering my fear of heights, roller coasters, public speaking. Learning how to tie knots, save lives, rappel, even how to keep my composure while very, very angry. Even with all of these accomplishments, that's just barely scratching the surface of what this squadron does. I have

Been offered to be on Color Guard, a request I turned down. That was before I realized that Color Guard was the people who presented the Colors at Braves, Falcons, and Hawks games. I just thought they were a bunch of cadets in blues who swung around rifles and flags.

With all these opportunities, it has been difficult for me to narrow down the activities in which I may participate. Encampments, NESA, PJOC, Model Rocketry; the possibilities are endless. There is fun stuff, like the Independence Day river trip; grueling things, like the Frostbite exercise, but my personal favorites are the FTX's that I participate in. I love prepping my gear, checking it over, getting it checked over by a cadet officer, riding in the back of the Ambulance; the training, the hiking, reading maps, setting up tents, and even fire watch.

Although I will be missing a large chunk of this upcoming year due to boarding school, I look forward to the time I have left, and the so many years after my return.

C/Ssgt. Colin Istvan

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

- **C/LtCol Heather Gallagher** is presently in CHINA as a US **Captain Megan Gallagher**, was presented with Award AOPA Flight Scholarship Award.
- **C/SMsgt Anqui Zhao** was accepted to the U.S. Coast Guard Preparatory School



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- *1LT Grilli was awarded a F-18 pilot slot and is assigned to Beaufort Marine Corps Station.*

SQUADRON EVENTS

Events	Dates
SER Encampment	Jan
Frostbite	Feb
GAWG Competition	Mar
Ga Wing Conference	April
Resaca	May
ALMS Encampment	June
GAWG Encampment	July



The Family That Works and Plays Together Stays Together

When one visits SSCS it doesn't take long to realize Civil Air Patrol and this squadron in particular is a family affair. When I say this, I do not necessarily mean the families whom are active in this unit, such as, the Fisher's, Reed's, Gallagher's, Agasarkisian's, Vegter's, Rasmussen-Rodriguez, Tierney's, MArthur's are ever-present at squadron activities. Although the family names change, over the years, it is the "sense of family" which is apparent in the squadron. People from all walks of life come together to bond here. Sharing life experiences brings people together. Training at FTX's and living

together makes us closer. Meeting up, after midnight, to search for an ELT is an unique experience. Memories are made and life-long friendships are born. Our squadron spends many weekends and holidays together. While our mission is Search and Rescue, we participate in many activities which allow us to work and to play. Just a glance at the Snoopy Logs highlights our busy squadron life. While we work and play, we become a stronger family.

2LT. Terri Lynn Vegter

INDEPENDENCE DAY RAFTING TRIP

Well, where can I begin? We had a shaky start, cadets cancelling at the last minute, late show-ups, a distinct lack of appropriate tie downs, bad music, and a ruined camera. Fortunately, those aren't the highlights.

Once we finished filling up the rafts at a local Shell station, we headed down the road to the Chattahoochee River Center. On the way, a raft fell off the back of Major Reed's truck in the middle of the road, but no one seemed to mind too much, with the exception of the raft.

Finally, we were on the river after a half hour discussion about forty year old paddles, seasoned from previous CAP river raft trips of old. It was a relatively uneventful start, cold, wet, just like Frostbite. I was in a small, personal tube, two on a small dingy, and the other five participants on a huge, spacious, plenty-of-legroom floating island, and headrests, and coolers filled with food! YAY!

The actual trip down was, well, bumpy, rocky, and bruising. There were a plethora of ducks, plenty of lost shoes on the river banks, and boatloads of lazy river rafters meandering slowly downstream.



The U.S.S. Personal Tube

Then we saw it, the cliffs of diver. We immediately pulled over, and set anchor. I didn't realize how high up the cliff was from the base. I got vertigo just from peering into the murky depths. I backed off immediately to the safety of the tree line, and watched as participants leaped off into the great void, free falling for what seemed like minutes at a time.



I finally worked up my nerve to approach the lower ledge; still too scared. As I was backing away, I heard a deep voice calling 3..2..1...I felt two large hands place themselves abruptly on the small of my back, with plenty of force. I screamed as I plunged forward into the lack of solid ground. KAPLOOSH!!! I was forced into a cold, wet, bubbly, lifeless world. I realized I was underwater. After saying goodbye to the drunken inhabitants of our landmark and cleaning up empty Bud Light cans, we departed our vessels and clambered up the cliff. I didn't and surfaced as soon as I could. I gasped for breath, cursing out the senior member who stood peering into the depths to determine my demise. I heard a voice behind me go, "Uh...you're bleeding Istvan!" I quickly pursued my entire body, searching for the source of the pink water.

Once my incident was resolved my adrenaline was pumping. I scaled up the cliff, this time I was completely prepared for the plunge. I still wasn't, but that's beside the point. After a few more jumps, we set sail again, into the raging torrent of the Hooch.

When approaching the rapids, one could hear Captain Gallagher giving commands to paddle, all to no avail. Everyone was preoccupied with bad music and paddling in circles. Round...round...round...round in circles.

On the last legs of the trip, I realized that I hadn't yet taken any photos. My camera was in a Ziploc, 2 camera cases, and a cooler. Somehow it still managed to get wet. Oh well.

We finally pulled ashore at the end of our trip, surrounded by screaming children throwing rocks, and greeted by plenty of families' barbequing. We folded up the rafts, island, and tube then headed for dinner.

Johnny Rockets was an experience with 50's music, amazing milkshakes, and greasy burgers. Due to the nature of the day, with families celebrating, we held the squadron meeting at the diner.

At last, we arrived back at the squadron, parents "eagerly" awaiting their cadets. I traveled the grueling two mile trip home, ate BBQ, and lit off plenty of fireworks. Although my camera died, I believed it was a day well spent with my CAP comrades.

-C/Ssgt. Colin Istvan

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI ENCAMPMENT

Hit the Ready Line!
 "What is the color of infinity?"
 "Sky-blue p-pink, with a purpleish hue!"

Stutters a nervous cadet as she comes in the sweating Sun under the glare of who she will later know as the First Sergeant to avoid and from whom she will later receive the most memorable instruction and guidance of her career as a basic in the CAP program.

After the initial shock of in-processing cadets are divided into flights and herded to their rooms like sheep ready for the meat market. Once in their designated flight quarters, most of the cadets assume the The Thinker or eye the floor as if in wonder at a Dali piece, but all quake when ordered by their flight sergeant to make hospital corners-45° edges and all.

Fast forward to Tuesday, Day 3 of the Alabama-Mississippi encampment, and it seems as if the staff ending to a great encampment. After a week of daily early-morning physical training, constant marching, sounding off, and drilling for pass-in-review, the



Snoopy in Alabama

ceremony marked the end of a grueling week and the realization of the difficulty of saying goodbye to new close friends. The guidon wars were over, tests were taken, barracks were spotless, and phone numbers hastily exchanged; the bonds made during encampment are lasting. The encampment suffered together, basics and cadets, and the time spent was not wasted.

Saturday comes in a rush. Cadets scramble to find their blues covers, adjust their ranks. It is time for graduation and the parents will be arriving. The actual ceremony goes by fast and soon we are checking out. Cadets are hugging each other, taking pictures, making promises to write. And then they go their separate ways. They have passed this encampment and can now move on to bigger and better things.

This cadet learned more than she likes to admit to during that week her flight won honor flight of the encampment. She got over, for the most part, her fear of heights and made friends she will always keep in touch with. Now she just needs to work for her Mitchell award. has loosened up. Smiles appear spontaneously and sometimes officers are greeted with cheer, but there is still the occasional eating in squares and call for “flight-talks.” Cadets are now beginning to enjoy the encampment although smiling at attention is strictly forbidden and punishable.

As the week progresses, cadets partake in the activities they have been hearing about from older, more experienced cadets. The LRC course is a cadet favorite. This cadets group never quite made it through any of the obstacles, although the mission of learning leadership skills was completed. When it came to jumping off the rappel tower, this cadet threatened to take the instructor down with her. She ended up rappelling three times.

Dining in is a highly-awaited event. Every cadet has heard of the notorious grog, and most shudder when thinking about what might be in it. The Alabama-Mississippi encampment had an informal ceremony. Flights competed in games like tug-of-war and Dizzy Lizzy. The anticipated grogging ceremony is always a perfect

C/Amn Siranoush Agasarkisian

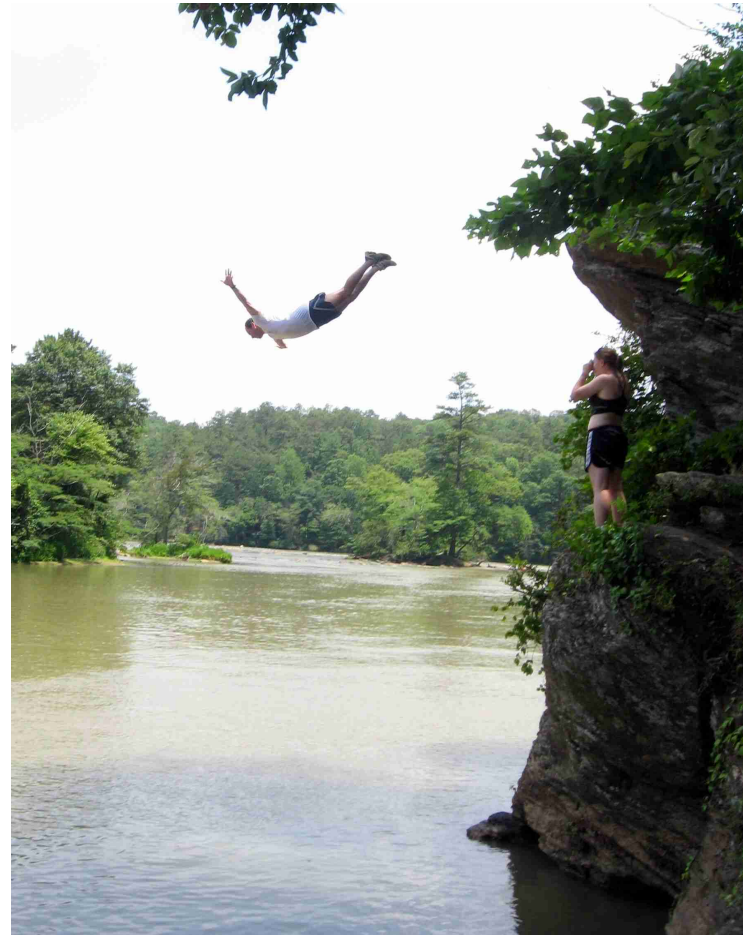
FIRST FLIGHT

Georgia Wing Encampment 2007

Rome Municipal Airport, Rome, Georgia

Flying in the Cessna was really fun. I learned a lot about preflight inspection, what the instruments do, and what the parts of the airplane are called. The best part about flying was pulling zero –to –two G’s. Pulling Zero G’s was the best. I got to fly the airplane and pull one G at a 30 degree bank.

C/Amn Julian Lidback



Snoopy Having Fun on the ‘Hooch” in 2007